

**BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF

CASE NO.

AMBLING COMPANIES, INC.

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2004-0087

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission pursuant to a November 19, 2004 finding of probable cause to open an investigation of whether Ambling Companies, Inc. ("Respondent") may have violated the Ethics in Government Act by failing to register as a non-candidate campaign committee and file campaign contribution disclosure reports for a series of years.

Registration Requirements

During the years 2002 and 2004 any person (not an individual) making contributions to Georgia candidates was required to register as a non-candidate campaign committee pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(e) if their aggregate contributions to and expenditures on behalf of candidates exceeded \$5,000.00 during the calendar year.

Reporting Requirements

During the years 2002 and 2004, persons (other than individuals) making contributions to candidates were required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports in the same places and at the same times as required of the candidates they supported. O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(e).

Campaign Activity by the Respondent

During the period from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002 and January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004, the Respondent did not register or file campaign contribution disclosure reports in Georgia.

Excessive Contribution

On August 23, 2002, the Respondent reported making a \$7,000 contribution to a statewide candidate for the 2002 General Election in violation of the \$5,000 maximum contribution limit set forth in O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41(a).

Missing Address Information

During the period from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002 and January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004, the Respondent omitted address information for reported expenditures. O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(b)(1)(B).

Violations

The Respondent admits that it failed to register or failed to timely register as a non-candidate campaign committee in 2002 and in 2004.

During the same period, the Respondent made contributions in Georgia totaling \$24,000. The Respondent admits it failed to disclose these contributions in violation of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 and § 21-5-31.

Respondent admits that it violated the maximum allowable contribution limits set forth in O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41(a) by \$2,000, in contributing \$7,000 to a statewide candidate in the 2002 General Election.

Respondent admits that it violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 by failing to disclose the addresses of nine expenditure recipients.

Sanction

The Respondent admits that its failure to register and disclose campaign contributions, although the Respondent maintains that such failures were unintentional, constituted violations of the Ethics in Government Act as described herein.

The Respondent has incurred and paid statutory late filing fees totaling Six Dollars (\$600) as a result of the failures to timely file the disclosure reports described herein, and the Respondent shall pay these late filing fees within thirty (30) days of the date of this order.

The Respondent shall pay civil penalties totaling Four Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$4,200) as a consequence of the violations described herein. The Respondent admits that it has committed violations of the Act sufficient as a matter of law to warrant civil penalties imposed herein. These civil penalties shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

All required registrations and campaign contribution disclosure reports required for the periods described in this Order have now been filed. Respondent has represented, and the Commission has relied upon such representation, that the contributions and expenditures set forth in the foregoing reports constitute a full accounting for all activity required to be disclosed in Georgia under the Ethics in Government Act and the Rules of the State Ethics Commission. This Consent Order resolves only the matters described herein, and it is not intended to, nor shall it be construed to include or resolve any other matters.

The Respondent shall cease and desist from any and all violations of the Ethics in Government Act and shall comply with all requirements thereof.

Conclusion

The State Ethics Commission accepts the foregoing admissions, statements, and conclusions of law as the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Commission orders the fulfillment of all requirements of the terms of this order.

Respondent consents to the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law and agrees to comply with all terms of this order.

Signature of Mike Godwin attested to on
this 18th day of September, 2006.

By: Gunis Smith

RESPONDENT
AMBLING COMPANIES, INC.


Mike Godwin
President & CEO

SO ORDERED this 21 day of September, 2006.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

By: Jack Williams
Jack Williams, Chairman